

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-12 were pending in the present application. Claims 3-8 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 2, 9, 10, 11 and 12 are amended and claims 13-15 are added. Support for the amendments to claims 2 and 9 can be found, *inter alia*, in original claim 1. Claims 10, 11 and 12 are amended to be dependent upon claim 2, either directly or indirectly. Support for new claims 13-15 can be found, *inter alia*, in the original claims 1, 9, 11 and 12. Therefore, the present Amendment is fully supported by the original specification and does not raise any issue of new matter. Accordingly, entry of the present Amendment is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the present Amendment, claims 2 and 9-15 will be under examination.

The Office Action objected to claims 2, 9 and 10 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants hereby amend claims 2 and 9 into independent form, including all the elements of claim 1. Claim 10 is amended to be dependent upon claim 2. Therefore, this ground of objection is moot.

Applicants have also amended claim 11 to be dependent upon claim 2. Pursuant to MPEP § 821.04, Applicants respectfully request that method claims 11 and 12 be rejoined as the elected product claim, i.e., claim 2, is found allowable.

For the same reason, new claims 13-15 should also be allowed as these new claims depend upon allowable claim 9.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the claim amendments and remarks, further and favorable consideration of claims 2 and 9-15 and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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